

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 06511 251445Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05
OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-15 CEQ-01 AID-05 JUSE-00 NEAE-00
EUR-12 /128 W

-----049172 251449Z /64

O R 251317Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1182
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 6511

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: TECH, PEPR, IN, US
SUBJECT: DESAI STATEMENT ON TARAPUR: VERBATIM REPLIES TO FOLLOW-
UP QUESTIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 6420

1. WE HAVE REVIEWED THE VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF THE
DEBATE WHICH FOLLOWED PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S APRIL 24
RAJYA SABHA STATEMENT ON TARAPUR. THE PRESS REPORTS
WE CITED IN THE REFTEL WERE GENERALLY ACCURATE, THOUGH
THEY WERE NECESSARILY ABBREVIATED VERSIONS OF WHAT THE
PM ACTUALLY SAID. THERE FOLLOWS THE VERBATIM REPLIES
HE MADE TO THE MORE SIGNIFICANT POINTS IN THE DISCUSSION:

2. INSPECTIONS: A NOMINATED MEMBER STATED THAT THE
USG WANTS INDIA TO OPEN ALL ITS NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS TO
INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION, AND ASKED THE PM "TO REPEAT
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THE ASSURANCES THAT THIS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED". THE PM
REPLIED: " THE QUESTION OF INSPECTING OUR INSTALLATIONS
DOES NOT ARISE. AS LONG AS THERE IS NOT AN EQUAL
LIBERTY TO INSPECT ALL THE INSTALLATIONS IN OTHER
COUNTRIES, THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF INSPECTION OF
OUR INSTALLATIONS AT ALL. I HAVE MADE THAT VERY CLEAR
TO THEM (I.E., THE USG). SO THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT

IT. THE FREEDOM OF ONE IS NO LESS THAT THE FREEDOM OF ANOTHER. THIS IS WAHT I BELIEVE IN AND THIS IS WHAT I HAVE TOLD THEM. THEREFORE, THE HON. MEMBERS NEED NOT BE WORRIED ABOUT IT. THEY COULD HAVE BEEN WORRIED EARLIER BUT NOW THERE IS NO REASON TO WORRY ABOUT IT."

3. PNES. THE SAME MEMBER ASKED "WHETHER, IN LIGHT OF (THE NRC DECISION) HIS ASSURANCES THAT WE WILL DISCUSS WITH THE UNITED STATES WHETHER OR NOT WE SHOULD HAVE A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES IS NULL AND VOID OR NOT." THE PM REPLIED: "THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSION FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES DOES NOT ARISE. I HAVE SAID IT. I SAID IT VERY CLEARLY EVEN THEN THAT I DO NOT CONSIDER IT NECESSARY. I THINK I SAID THAT FROM ALL THAT I KNOW, I DO NOT CONSIDER THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE AN EXPLOSION FOR PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY. THERE IS, THEREFORE, NO QUESTION OF CONSULTING OTHER PEOPLE IN THIS MATTER. WHEN THERE IS GOING TO BE NO EXPLOSION WHERE IS THE QUESTION OF CONSULTING OTHER PEOPLE?"

4. SPENT FUEL. THE PM REITERATED AN EARLIER STATEMENT THAT TAPS PRODUCTION HAS HAD TO BE REDUCED NNBECAUSE OF THE PROBLEM OF STORAGE OF SPENT FUEL. HE WENT ON TO SAY, IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION POSED BY A CONGRESS (I) MEMBER, THAT "WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO COPE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH THIS SITUATION. WE WILL BE ABLE TO USE SPENT FUEL ONLY WHEN THERE IS A BREACH IN THE AGREEMENT; WE WILL THEN BE FREE TO DO WHATEVER WE LIKE TO DO. BUT WE CANNOT SAY THAT THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN BREACHED TODAY." (EMBASSY TRANSLATION FROM THE HINDI ORIGINAL.)

5. A CALLING ATTENTION SIMILAR TO THE ONE PRESENTED APRIL 24 IN THE RAJYA SABHA WAS ADMITTED IN THE LOK SABHA APRIL 25. IN REPLY, THE PRIME MINISTER READ OUT A STATEMENT VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO HIS STATEMENT THE PREVIOUS DAY (NEW DELHI 6415). OUR IMPRESSION OF HE DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED IS THAT IT WAS LARGELY A REPLAY OF THE APRIL 24 EXCHANGES. MORE MEMBERS PARTICIPATED AND SEVERAL OF THESE CALLED FOR A RE-EXAMINATION BY DESAI OF HIS POSITION ON PNE'S IN LIGHT OF THE NRC DECISION. WE WILL BE CHECKING THE TRANSCRIPTS AGAIN TOMORROW TO MAKE CERTAINS THAT WE DIDN'T MISS ANY SIGNIFICANT NEW POINT THE PM MIGHT HAVE MADE DURING THE DEBATE.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 25 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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